

# UNIT 12: ULLOA CHANNEL

## MANAGEMENT INTENT

State lands will be managed to accommodate mineral and forestry resource development in key areas while mitigating the effects of those activities on recreation and fish and wildlife habitat values.

Forestry and mineral transfer facilities will be accommodated along the north coast of San Juan Bautista Island. Because of overselection of the island by Sealaska, both Sealaska and the USFS have proposed RTFs on the island - Sealaska near Aqueda Point and the USFS near Point Eugenia. When the overselection issue is settled, there will be only one upland owner. Therefore, only one of the two RTF sites will be used unless it is determined that using more than one site is a more feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.

Support facilities for mineral development will also be allowed at the west shore of the cove on the southern side of San Juan Bautista Island. Other tidelands and submerged lands surrounding San Juan Bautista Island will be managed for forestry (potential A-frame logging), habitat, and recreation values.

Two other areas in this unit will be managed to allow permanent facilities for timber transfer. Resource transfer facilities will be accommodated on the southwest shore of Port Estrella or the point south of Port Estrella on Prince of Wales Island, and in Port Refugio on Suemez Island. These two areas will also be managed for habitat and recreation resources. The head of Port Refugio and nearly all Port Estrella will be protected as crucial habitat. Some timber may be transferred via floating A-frame at various locations within the unit.

Habitat is designated a secondary use in some important fish and wildlife habitat or harvest areas (Hc). This will be considered in siting and managing all activities directly related to shore-attached facilities where there are primary designations for forestry and mining. Appropriate siting or operating stipulations (which may include timing restrictions) will be considered to mitigate negative impacts on the habitat resources and to meet the management intent for this unit. Even where habitat is designated a secondary use in important fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas (Hc), it will be managed as a primary use when reviewing proposals for uses that are not directly related to or necessary for the operation of a shore-attached facility where there is a primary designation of forestry or mining.

Shrimp and Dungeness crab are the important habitat resources in this unit. In Port Refugio, important habitat resources include abalone subsistence areas and areas that receive very high density use by waterfowl and seabirds. There are halibut harvest and subsistence take areas along the south shore of San Juan Bautista Island. Managers should check the fish and wildlife habitat maps for specific locations of these areas.

State land at Waterfall was transferred to the University of Alaska as part of a court settlement. The state selection at Port Refugio was relinquished because of conflicts with anadromous fish habitat. See Chapter 4 for more information.

Management for the remainder of this unit will focus on habitat and recreation resources.

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

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Refer to the land use designation map for primary and secondary uses and fish and wildlife ratings.

## PROHIBITED USES

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- Filling state tidelands and submerged lands for residential purposes.
- Mineral location in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Floathomes in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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Refer to Chapter 2 for guidelines common to this and all management units. The following guidelines apply to this specific unit.

- **Consolidation of Resource Transfer Sites on San Juan Bautista Island.** Only one permanent resource transfer site will be allowed on the north shore of the island unless it is determined that more than one site is a more feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. It may be placed in either area designated for forestry as a primary use (Aqueda Point or Point Eugenia). Mineral transfer facilities on the north shore of San Juan Bautista Island should be consolidated at the single site unless that would not be the most feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- **Siting Facilities and Structures on Purse Seine Hookoff Points.** To the extent feasible and prudent, facilities and structures will avoid interfering with purse seine hookoff points. Hookoff points have been identified west of Eugenia Point and on the north side of San Juan Bautista Island.
- **Siting A-frame Breakout Points: Point Providence to Point Lomas.** Logs from the uplands between these two points will, to the extent feasible and prudent, be transported by road to a permanent transfer site on the southwest shore of, or just outside Port Estrella. A-frame breakout points may be permitted if the DNR Land Manager determines, in consultation with the upland owner, that it is not feasible and prudent to transfer logs from this area across a permanent transfer facility in the Port Estrella area.
- **Public Access from Port Refugio to Arena Cove.** Public access across tidelands to the potential trail from Port Refugio to Arena Cove will not be precluded. The trailhead will be identified by the USFS.
- **Shoreline Development at Waterfall.** Fill used to enhance access will not be allowed in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas unless determined compatible through review procedures.

- **Developed Recreation Facilities in Crucial Habitat and Harvest Areas.** Based on available information, developed recreation facilities are initially determined incompatible within mapped crucial fish and wildlife areas. A specific proposal for a developed recreation facility may be considered for compatibility based on its design or on new habitat information.
- **Anchorage.** Use of anchorages depicted on the land use designation map will not be precluded.

## NOTES

- Heritage sites located within this unit include:
 

AHRS CRG-129	Port Estrella Village
AHRS CRG-131	Port Refugio Village
AHRS CRG-149	Waterfall Cannery
- There are patented uplands and tidelands at the Waterfall Cannery that include resort facilities, a floatplane dock and multipurpose dock.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Port Estrella and Port Caldera are very productive estuaries where large numbers of salmon school and rear. Six anadromous fish streams enter these two bays and 18 additional anadromous stream outlets are located in the unit.

Intensive seine and troll commercial fishing activities occur around San Juan Bautista Island. Craig and Klawock residents make heavy use of the island for deer hunting. Port Estrella, Port Refugio, and the Waterfall Creek area have kelp beds, shellfish beds, and important finfish rearing habitat.

Port Caldera, Port Refugio, and Port Estrella support very high-density concentrations of waterfowl and seabirds and waterfowl harvests. Tideflats associated with stream mouths include productive coastal wetlands. These areas provide habitat for seasonal black bear concentrations. The bays support crab harvests: subsistence harvest of Dungeness crab in Port Estrella, subsistence harvest of King crab in Port Caldera, and commercial harvest of Dungeness crab in Port Refugio.

Abalone is harvested along the shoreline throughout the rest of the unit.

